



PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No: 15568.15

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

John Derek Guest)	
Serial No.	10/660,099) Art Unit
Filing Date:	September 11, 2003) 3679
Confirmation No.:	6876)
For:	IMPROVEMENT IN OR RELATING TO TUBE COUPLINGS)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Please find, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), the enclosed Form PTO-1449 which contains a list of all patents, publications, or other items that have come to the attention of one or more of the individuals designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). While no representation is made that these references may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, the enclosed listed references are disclosed so as to fully comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Moreover, while no representation is made that a specific search of office files or patent office records has been conducted or that no better art exists, the undersigned attorney of record believes that the enclosed art is the closest to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) of which the undersigned is presently aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) has been knowingly withheld.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, a copy of each of the listed references or relevant portion thereof is also enclosed.

Statement of Relevance of References Listed

Unaccompanied by English Translation
Under 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3)

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3), the following concise explanation of the relevance of each listed reference that is not in the English language and unaccompanied by a translation into English is provided.

French Patent No. FR 2 689 205 A1 discloses an adapter that consists of a hollow body, a cylindrical sealing joint mounted in the body, and a set of anchoring claws designed to make contact and grip the connector. There is a control sleeve to move axially in relation to the body, and a ring to compress the joint and to act as a reaction stop for the anchoring claws when clamped onto the connector. This anchoring action of the jaws is effected by the screwing up of the sleeve on the body which forces the anchoring claws to make a metal to metal contact with the connector. This augments the resistance to pull-out or torsional forces that may be applied to the adaptor. A connector adaptor for gas appliances when converting the feed pipe from a flexible rubber tube to a flexible pipe which has a longer useful life.

Dated this 14th day of January 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATIONS MADE BY APPLICANT

U.S. Patent Documents

Examiner <u>Initial*</u>	Document <u>Number</u>	Issue <u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
<u> </u> 1	5,362,110	11/08/1994	Bynum
<u> </u> 2	5,388,866	02/14/1995	Schlosser

Foreign Patent Documents

Examiner <u>Initial*</u>	Document <u>Number</u>	Publication <u>Date</u>	Country or <u>Patent Office</u>	<u>Translation</u>
<u> </u> 3	1 233 225	08/21/2002	EPO	N/A
<u> </u> 4	2 689 205	10/01/1993	France	No

Other Documents

(including author, title, pertinent pages, etc.)

Examiner
Initial*

Date Considered:

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609, draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



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References Cited by Applicants

While the filing of Information Disclosure Statements is voluntary, the procedure is governed by the guidelines of Section 609 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. To be considered a proper Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449 shall be accompanied by a copy of each listed patent or publication or other item of information and a translation of the pertinent portions of foreign documents (if an existing translation is readily available to the applicant), an explanation of relevance of each reference not in the English language, and should be submitted in a timely manner as set out in MPEP Sec. 609.

Examiners will consider all citations submitted in conformance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and MPEP Sec. 609 and place their initials adjacent the citations in the spaces provided on this form. Examiners will also initial citations not in conformance with the guidelines which may have been considered. A reference may be considered by the Examiner for any reason whether or not the citation is in full conformance with the guidelines. A line will be drawn through a citation if it is not in conformance with the guidelines AND has not been considered. A copy of the submitted form, as reviewed by the Examiner, will be returned to the applicant with the next communication. The original of the form will be entered into the application file.

Each citation initialed by the Examiner will be printed on the issued patent in the same manner as references cited by the Examiner on Form PTO-892.

The reference designations "A1," "A2," etc. (referring to Applicant's reference 1, Applicant's reference 2, etc.) will be used by the Examiner in the same manner as Examiner's reference designations "A," "B," "C," etc. on Office Action Form PTO-1142.

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Examiner:

Date Considered:

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609, draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.